

That feeling is a positive emotion. I have no doubt from some little experience I have had with them. Once I found a lobster near low water in a pool some nine feet long by six feet wide, having a rough bottom and eight or ten inches of water in it, with a cavern at each end. Although I was armed with a crab hook, or iron gaff about three feet long, the extreme darting and fencing of the lobster were too much for me to grapple with. When in the deeper cavern, I found it could see me through the water as plainly as I could, so that the better constructed eyes of the genus homo had no advantage over the rough, blind stalk eyes of the crustacean, and as I could not get to gaff across it every effort I made was evaded. At last, however, by mere vigorous and energetic gaffing, I made the cavern so uncomfortable for the lobster that, like a lightning flash, it darted between my legs and back into its old haunt. Here the same game went on, and with like results, for in a moment he was again between my legs and back into his old haunt. Finally, becoming tired of gaffing and missing for its fencing was perfect and could not have been achieved without long practice, I declined to be beaten by a mere crustacean and proceeded to bail out the pool. It was only by this effort that I eventually conquered it. And here I must confess that throughout the battle so deft, crafty and subtle were its actions that it was like fighting a being endowed with human intelligence.

I have further proof that they manifest a severe martial spirit in the sea when hunting for food. It is nothing uncommon for fishermen, when drawing up their traps in the morning, to find the large claw of another lobster in the pot beside the prisoner, says The Contemporary Review, and there have been instances where three large claws have been found together with the above conditions and a lobster with one arm as a prisoner, showing that in a recent fight the victor had lost one and the vanquished both arms. But these are only trifles when compared with what the late Sir Isaac Coffin saw when on the coast of Nova Scotia, for it is given on his authority that he once witnessed a terrible battle between two armies of lobsters and that they fought with such fury that the shore was strewn with their claws.

The Bird and the Tree.

Across the ocean grew an oak tree. The sun shone brightly upon it. The little birds sang in its branches. The warm south winds from the desert rustled its leaves.

One summer day two men came to look at it. The tree heard them talking. It wondered what was going to happen. But it hadn't long to wait.

The men went to work at once. They cut the bark and peeled it off in great strips. The tree was sorry to lose its thick bark. It said, "I shall die now." It didn't know how careful the men had been. They had not injured the tree at all.

In a few years another bark grew. This was better than the first one. The men came again and peeled this off too. The oak wondered what became of its bark. So it asked a little bird one day.

This is the bird's story:

"This morning I was flying along. Below me were great piles of bark. I saw some of it soaking in water. Heavy weights were on it. They straightened it out. Then it was dried and cut into strips. The bark could float on the surface of water. This made it useful for life preservers. I saw many other things made. Some day I will tell you about them. I must fly away now."

What Sunshine Does.

A grapevine hung by an apple bough. The grapes were red and the apples green. Each fruit was healthy and promised now a rich, ripe fulness of life and taste. One August came with its hot, hot baste. A harvest of wealth to glean.

But grapes and apples, and children, too. At first have temper but immature. And, red or green, they are sometimes blue And harsh or sour or full of sour. 'Till wailing woe or expending years Unhappy have come to cure.

The grapes then gazed at the apples green. Too proud and vain of their glistening red. "You're knobby, bitter and hard and mean; We scarce could tell you from luscious leaven To hang beside you on the apple tree. Such ugly fruit," they said.

The apples answered: "You hypocrites. Your red's a lie on the face of it. You think you're clever, you think you're wise. We know, although we are not wise, That we, as we are, can be used for pies. You're no one-but a lie!"

So words ran high, and a tall sunflower Upon them turned a roasting face. The grapes and apples began to cover. "He's going to scold," they said; "He's mostly jolly, and we're afraid He'll speak of our disgrace."

The sunflower couldn't be cross for long; His Princeton features soon welled a smile; "Your use of language is quite too strong; You talk too fiercely and talk too much. You need the sunshine's caressing touch; Keep still and wait awhile."

—Cynthia Westover in Success.

A Lively Game.

"Three deep, or third man," is one of the most popular games. The players arrange themselves in two circles, one within the other. Two extra players for whom there is no extra place in the circle stand on the outside as "chaser" and "runner." The latter may save himself from the chaser by standing in front of any two players—i. e. inside the circle—thus making a line three deep. He then is safe, but the outer one of the three is then "third man" and may be tagged. To save himself he must run and take a place in front of another couple, but not the couple adjacent to him on either side. If a player is tagged, he becomes chaser and the one who tagged him the runner.

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